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and are indicative of the careful editorial work. For each section a select bibliography of sources and secondary works is given. Thus this history becomes an invaluable guide to further study. There is a wealth of illustrative material from contemporary sources which emphasizes the general statements of facts. France is never treated as an isolated land, but its associations with the surrounding countries are kept constantly in mind. In particular much attention is given to institutions, literature, art, the life and thoughts of the people. The authors have succeeded in making the work *un tableau complet, bien que forcément abrégé, de la civilisation française*.

The most important defect, in our opinion, is that some statements, which seem open to doubt, are made absolutely and without reference to authorities. For example, M. Luchaire (Vol. III, part 1, p. 338) says: *À coup sûr, la corporation générale avait déjà son chef ou son directeur (capitale) en 1200, année où elle reçut du roi de France son premier privilège connu, car, dans cette charte, Philippe-Auguste comprend évidemment sous le nom de scolaires, tout le personnel de la grande école parisienne, maîtres et étudiants*. Rashdall and others deny that *capitale* in the privilege of Philip Augustus means the chief of the students, and hold that it probably refers to the chattels of the students. In this, and in similar cases, the statement stands in need of defence, or a foot-note should be given indicating that other authorities do not hold the same view.

Although the collaborators have been, as a whole, so well chosen, we miss the names of some French scholars who seem especially fitted to participate in this work. The volumes have greater unity because each is written by a single author, but occasionally we regret that some special topic has not been treated by the student who is best fitted to discuss that particular theme. Some subjects which seem pertinent have not been treated as yet, but possibly, as in the case of the history of Christianity in Roman Gaul, these will find a place in a later volume. As a whole the history thus far is worthy of the highest praise. It represents the most accurate scholarship of the present day and is an absolute necessity to every student of French history.

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Life of the Emperor Frederick. Edited from the German of Margaretha von Poschinger, with an Introduction. By SIDNEY WHITMAN. Pp. xiv, 460. Price, \$2.50. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1901.

In 1900 Margaretha von Poschinger published the last of three volumes devoted to the life of Frederick III., German emperor, and

embodying new information gathered from private and official documents. Of this work Mr. Sidney Whitman has issued an edition in one volume, omitting such portions of the original as seemed of little interest to English readers or savored too much of German patriotism. The result is a convenient and compact biography containing large numbers of original letters and papers, hitherto unprinted, and conveying an impression of the emperor's personality and political attitude that is in large measure new.

One-half of the volume is given up to purely domestic and personal details relating to the emperor's early life, his courtship and marriage, his historical and artistic activities, and his travels. Another quarter is given up to his military career. This leaves but a quarter of the work for a discussion of his political ideas and influences in which the reader will expect to find sensational revelations, if he has believed all the tales, which, as the outgrowth of the dramatic scenes of the emperor's brief reign and tragic death and the publication of his diary by Dr. Geffcken, have been current in the newspapers of the past thirteen years. But in this he will be disappointed. The book contains no "revelations." The reader will look in vain for evidence to support those traditions of the emperor's earlier career which accredited him with personal hostility for Bismarck, with attempts to thwart his policy, with a preponderating share in the erection of the German empire, or, in general, with the desire to inaugurate either openly or secretly a pro-English or parliamentary form of government. On the other hand he will find that Frederick, except when regent or emperor, though actively and eagerly interested in all that concerned the political welfare of Prussia and Germany, abstained at all times from interfering in affairs of state.

That Frederick had strong and definite opinions is of course to be expected. He was in the years of conflict in Prussia, from 1862 to 1865, a constitutionalist, distrustful of Bismarck and hostile to his policy; he was opposed to the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein by Prussia, and even after the close of the Danish war supported the cause of Augustenburg, largely on personal grounds; he voted against war with Austria, at the council meeting of February 28, 1866, and did all in his power to preserve peace; and at first objected to the revival of the imperial title. But after the Austro-Prussian war his attitude underwent a change; he upheld Bismarck in the latter's desire that Austria should receive generous treatment, joined him in persuading the king to issue a complete political amnesty, after 1867 gave up his opposition to the assumption of the title of emperor by the king of Prussia, and after 1869 abandoned his objections to Bismarck's policy for German unity. He became, in fact, the champion of imperialism,

declared that he was ready to assume all the added responsibilities that it might entail, and put forth as his political program "a powerful German empire under the enlightened government of the Hohenzollerns."

During the regency of 1878, though called upon to govern according to his father's ideas and often to act contrary to his own convictions, he maintained a strictly correct attitude, and only in his dealings with the papacy was he able to outline a personal policy. His influence in inducing William I. to sign the treaty of 1879 with Austria, commonly thought to have been considerable, is in this work reduced to a minimum, though the only evidence given by the author in support of her statement is the already known comments of Bismarck in his "Reflections and Reminiscences." The story of Frederick's three months' reign is simply told, without any attempt to rehearse the unhappy quarrels and recriminations arising from the emperor's sickness. A little space is devoted to the forced resignation of Bismarck's kinsman, von Puttkamer, because of official interference in the elections, but beyond that nothing is said. The book ends abruptly without summing up or general conclusion. But so ample is the information furnished in the body of the work that the reader is able readily to arrive at his own conclusions and to form, without further assistance, an admirable idea of the man whom the world has always admired and will admire none the less for this book.

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The American Slave Trade. An Account of its Origin, Growth and Suppression. By JOHN R. SPEARS. Illustrated by Walter Appleton Clark. Pp. xvi and 232. Price, \$2.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900.

That history in which exact and painstaking scholarship is linked with a readable and interesting style seldom sees the light of day. One has usually the choice between a dry catalogue of facts and a "popular" treatise. Mr. Spears' book is distinctly popular, written in an easy, almost careless style and embellished with pictures, some striking and some curious, it is a volume which people will read. Its tone is high and the general impression given is a true one. Nevertheless one cannot help regretting that the element of scholarship was not more marked. There is a dogmatism about some alleged facts, an irregular massing of material and a lack of perspective and proportion in the work which is disappointing. For instance, we are told that "not one act passed by a colonial legislature showed any appreciation of the intrinsic evil in the [slave] trade or tended to extirpate it from